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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,520	09/29/2003	Akiyoshi Fujita	01306.000109.	9108

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EXAMINER

CHEN, SOPHIA S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2852

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/671,520

Applicant(s)

FUJITA ET AL.

Examiner

Sophia S. Chen

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/22/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Ex Parte Quayle***

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

#### ***Drawings***

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 55b (page 24, line 1). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 3k3 (Figure 8) and S (Figure 9). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply

to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Specification***

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the inclusion of legal phraseology, such as "means" (page 16 of the preliminary amendment filed 9/29/03, lines 2 and 4) and comprising (page 16 of the preliminary amendment filed 9/29/03, line 3). Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
5. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.
6. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
  - a. Page 14, paragraph [0034], line 1, "mean" should be "means".
  - b. Page 8 of the preliminary amendment filed 9/29/03, line 4, "16a" should be "16b".

- c. Page 8 of the preliminary amendment filed 9/29/03, line 5, "16" should be "16b".
- d. Page 8 of the preliminary amendment filed 9/29/03, line 9, "16" should be "16b".
- e. Page 8 of the preliminary amendment filed 9/29/03, line 11, "16" should be "16b".
- f. Page 23, paragraph [0058], line 3, "54" should be "54a".
- g. Page 26, line 5, "1" should be "2".
- h. Page 11 of the preliminary amendment filed 9/29/03, paragraph [0070], line 5, "point" after "contact" should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claims***

- 7. Claims 11, 23, and 24 contain the following informalities:
  - a. Claim 11, line 3, "the transfer member" should be "a transfer member" because it is the first time to use this terminology.
  - b. Claim 23, line 3, "the transfer member" should be "a transfer member" because it is the first time to use this terminology.
  - c. Claim 24, line 2, "buffer" should be "buffer portion" to be consistent with the terminology used in claim 22.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

8. Claims 1-28 are allowable over the prior art of record.
9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims 1-28 are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art or record does not teach or suggest a buffer portion formed between the securing portion and the moving portion as set forth in the claimed combination.

***Citation of Pertinent Prior Art***

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Uchida et al. (US Pat. No. 4,371,252) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive drum; a charging brush for charging the photosensitive drum; and an electric contact member applying a voltage from a voltage applying means to the charging brush.

To (US Pat. No. 5,630,199) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive drum; a charging brush for charging the photosensitive drum; and a reciprocal moving means.

Wibbels (US Pat. No. 5,852,758) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive drum; a charging roller for charging the photosensitive drum; and a reciprocal moving means.

Hoshi et al. (US Pat. Pub. No. US 2003/0049049 A1) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive drum; a charging brush for charging the photosensitive drum; a reciprocal moving means; and the charging brush charging a developing agent remaining on the photosensitive drum.

Uyama et al. (US Pat. Pub. No. US 2004/0120729 A1) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive drum; a charging brush for charging the photosensitive drum; a reciprocal moving means; and the charging brush charging a developing agent remaining on the photosensitive drum.

Palumbo et al. (US Pat. No. 6,775,498 B2) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive drum; a charging roller for charging the photosensitive drum; and an electric contact member applying a voltage from a voltage applying means to the charging roller.

Bean et al. (GB 2 129 372 A) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive drum; a charging brush for charging the photosensitive drum; a reciprocal moving means; and the charging brush charging a developing agent remaining on the photosensitive drum.

Watariki et al. (JP 06-051609) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive drum; a charging brush for charging the photosensitive drum; and a reciprocal moving means.

Kurihara et al. (JP 09-043939) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive drum; a charging roller for charging the photosensitive drum; and an electric contact member applying a voltage from a voltage applying means to the charging roller.

***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sophia S. Chen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2133. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on (571) 272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sophia S. Chen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2852